

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 /078 W

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R 151515Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2556

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EALR ETRD PFOR YO PM

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS

1. TANJUG APR 14 REPORTS THAT DURING SIX-DAY VISIT TO PANAMA OF YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR GOLOB (RESIDENT IN MEXICO), PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK "CONFIRMED PANAMA'S KEEN INTEREST IN ADMISSION TO NON-ALIGNED FAMILY AS AN ACTIVE AND FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER." TANJUG ADDS THIS SHOULD OCCUR AT NON-ALIGNED FONMINS MEETING IN LIMA THIS SUMMER.

2. ACCORDING TANJUG, GOLOB AND PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS VISITED BAYANO RIVER VALLEY SITE, WHERE BELGRADE CONSTRUCTION FIRM ENERGOPROJEKT IS BUILDING A LARGE HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT. BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA STATES DAM ON HYDROPROJECT WILL BE "CLOSED" AND ARTIFICIAL ACCUMULATION LAKE WILL BEGIN FILLING BY OCT 1975. DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD CONCERNING PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION BY ENERGOINVEST, A SARAJEVO FIRM, OF PANAMA'S FIRST OIL REFINERY. (INVESTMENT ESTIMATED AT \$100 MILLION).

3. PANAMA REPORTEDLY INVITED A YUGOSLAV PARLIAMENTARY DEL TO VISIT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

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4. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN PANAMA IS PART OF POLICY OF EXPANDING ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY INFRA-STRUCTURE ENGINEERING AND JOINT PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS, WITH LDC'S. YUGOSLAV-LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION IS NOT AS LARGE AS YUGOSLAV CO-OPERATION WITH MORE GEOGRAPHICALLY PROXIMATE MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES BUT YUGOSLAVIA HOPES TO EXPAND ITS ECONOMIC PRESENCE IN LATIN AMERICA, INTENSIFYING CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN PANAMA, PERU, MEXICO, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA, AND BUILDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC BENEFITS, YUGOSLAV COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN LDC'S SERVE TO BUTTRESS YUGOSLAVIA'S POLITICAL POSITION AS A LEADER OF NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD INTERESTS. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NONALIGNED NATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA01848
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750131-0970
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750449/aaaabtj.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV-PANAMANIAN RELATIONS
TAGS: EALR, ETRD, PFOR, YO, PN, (GOLOB, IGNAC), (TACK, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006